

1-27-1971

February Program of the University of Dayton Art Series

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"February Program of the University of Dayton Art Series " (1971). *News Releases*. 3745.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/3745

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

News from

**THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**JOE McLAUGHLIN
DIRECTOR, GENERAL PUBLICITY**

DAYTON, OHIO 45409

AREA CODE 513

229-2646

DAYTON, Ohio, January 27, 1971 --- The classic entertainment of a marionette theater for children and adults alike, plus a one-act portrait of prison life at its rawest, will highlight the February program of the University of Dayton Arts Series.

Wednesday, February 3, direct from Austria, the Salzburg Marionette Theatre will present two full length operas. Friday, February 19, the Barbwire Theatre, made up of ex-inmates, will present "The Cage," a dramatic look into prison life. Both programs will be presented at 3 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. in the Boll Theater of the Kennedy Union.

THE SALZBURG MARIONETTE THEATRE

The Salzburg Marionette Theatre, which includes a repertoire of 150 operas, plays and fairy tales, has entertained children and adults on nearly every continent. The beginning of this theatre group dates back 50 years when a father amused his children by whittling puppets out of wood.

The present Salzburg company is centered around the Aicher family, direct descendants of Professor Anton Aicher, the original whittler and founder of the troupe. Currently directing the theatre is Hermann Aicher, who in these early days was only ten-years-old and at that time already building the puppets and creating ideas for new shows.

The original theatre was the living room of Anton Aicher and the performances were limited to family and close friends. At that time, the repertoire consisted of the creations of another Salzburg personality--Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Since Aicher's "living-room theatre" many changes have taken place. The music is now performed by the Vienna Philharmonic and internationally known soloists. Stage direction is under the guidance of the leading director from the famous Vienna Burgtheater. The most prominent designer of the Vienna Staatsoper is in charge of scenery. And the services of the most famous European sculptors are utilized to mold the faces of the puppets.

The two full length operas which will be performed at UD are "Don Giovanni" and "The Magic Flute."

THE BARBWIRE THEATER

Appropriately termed the Barbwire Theater includes actors, writer, producer and director who are all convicted felons and who among them have spent 54 years behind bars. The drama which they present, entitled "The Cage," was written by a man serving life for kidnapping and robbery and is being performed in various places around the country by a small company of skilled actors.

An indictment against the universal world of prison, "The Cage" represents in

play form "what man does to his fellow man by locking him in a cage and stacking him five stories high," explains the 35-year-old author, Rick Cluchey.

The 80-minute play explores the relationships of four men sharing a prison cage. The term cell is not used, since, according to one player, "a cell represents life."

In an article which appeared in the January 12, 1970 issue of Newsweek author Rick Cluchey commented, "We're trying to effect changes in the system. But first, in order to get your attention and not just preach at you, it's got to be good art."

And according to this Newsweek article drama critics from San Francisco to Washington agree that Barbwire Theater is good art. "The most impressive aspect of 'The Cage'," wrote Richard L. Coe of The Washington Post, "is that in writing and production it has a professional tone, far more disciplined than what often passes for 'art' on or off Broadway."

The author of "The Cage" was director of a drama workshop in San Quentin when in 1961 he somewhat humorously met up with Micil Murphy who was doing a six-and-a-half-year stretch for armed robbery. The two prisoners organized a highly polished drama group, and till 1966 have staged as many as nine plays a year. Finally in February of 1969 the drama group, dedicated to promoting penal reform, came to the outside world.

For the past year, the Barbwire Theater has been playing to packed houses in community theaters across the country and recently performed on an extensive tour of West Coast colleges, beginning with Stanford University.